

MILITARY ROAD FROM OLYMPIA.

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MEMORIAL

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY,

PRAYING

*An appropriation for a military road from Olympia, on Puget Sound, to connect with the military road from Salem to Astoria, in Oregon Territory, at some point near the mouth of the Columbia river.*

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MARCH 14, 1856.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

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*Memorial praying an appropriation for a military road from Olympia, on Puget Sound, to connect with the military road from Salem to Astoria, in Oregon Territory, at some point near the mouth of the Columbia river.*

To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled:

Your memorialists, the legislative assembly of the Territory of Washington, would respectfully represent: That there is no means of communication between the settlements bordering on the mouth of the Columbia river and the settlements on Shoalwater bay and Olympia, Puget Sound, except by sea, or by way of the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers, more than one-half of the distance, by the latter route, being by water, and either of which is attended with great difficulty and delay, particularly in the winter, when the latter route is entirely impracticable; that in case the settlements, at the points aforesaid, should be attacked by Indians or other enemy of the United States, the obtaining of assistance from, or transportation of troops and munitions of war to, either of the above named points, is at all times attended with great delay and inconvenience, more particularly in the winter season; that the opening and construction of a good military road between the said points, and connecting with the military road

from Salem to Astoria, in the Territory of Oregon, is of the utmost importance, and particularly to the settlements in the vicinity of Shoalwater bay, as they are in very exposed situations, being open to the incursions of the powerful tribes of savages to the north, and without a shadow of protection from any military post:

Wherefore, for the purpose of providing the means of a safe, speedy, and reliable transportation of troops, arms, and munitions of war, at all seasons, to the exposed and unprotected settlements above mentioned, your memorialists pray your honorable bodies to pass an act, making a sufficient appropriation to open and construct a good military road from Olympia, on Puget Sound, to connect with the military road from Salem to Astoria, in Oregon Territory, at some point near the mouth of the Columbia river.